GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2759
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Closed Sugar Mills in Vidarbha Region
Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several sugar mills in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been closed down due to shortage of sugarcane;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the factors responsible for shortfall in sugarcane production; and
(d) whether the Government has proposed to overcome these factors and increase the sugarcane production and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a)&(b): Out of 14 sugar mills in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, 7 sugar mills viz. three in Buldhana district and one each in Amravati, Yavatmal, Wardha and Bhandara districts are not in operation due to shortage of sugarcane.
(c): Low availability of irrigation water, non-availability of quality seeds, financial and managerial constraints and lack of awareness of farmers about production technology etc. are the primary factors responsible for shortfall in sugarcane production in Vidarbha region.
(d): In order to enhance production & productivity of sugarcane, Sugarcane Development programme is implemented in major sugarcane growing States including Maharashtra, under National Food Security Mission (Commercial Crops). Under Training & demonstration, newly developed technologies are transferred to the farmers through State Government and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, the State Government of Maharashtra has recently notified a scheme envisaging concessional loans to farmers for bringing sugarcane area under drip irrigation.
****